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For Immediate Release
March 4, 2003

**FORMER SACRAMENTO CITY SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND
RECREATIONS PLEADS GUILTY TO CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

SACRAMENTO – United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that MICHAEL RAY STAUFFER, 50, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty to committing credit card fraud with a public debit card while serving as a superintendent of parks and recreations for the city of Sacramento, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(2). STAUFFER's sentencing was set before Judge Morrison C. England, Jr., on May 13, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.

During the plea hearing, STAUFFER admitted that from around March 2000 to July 2002, he participated in a scheme to defraud the city of Sacramento of approximately \$25,315.43 by using a public debit card for unauthorized purchases and by submitting false vouchers for payment. According to the plea agreement, investigators learned that on July 10, 2001, STAUFFER requested a city purchasing card and was subsequently issued a master card debit card to be used for official business for the city of Sacramento. Investigators determined that all of the transactions on the debit card incurred by Stauffer were not for official business and were not authorized. Some of debit card charges were at hotels in the Sacramento area; restaurants in the Sacramento area including Il Fornaio, Morton's of Chicago, the Pilot House, and Carvers Steaks and Chops in Roseville; gasoline charges (even though the city provided gasoline for official business); grocery store charges; along with other unauthorized charges.

In submitting fraudulent vouchers, STAUFFER also forged the signatures of other city employees. Investigators determined there were approximately 118 fraudulent credit card charges between March 2000 and July 2002, and approximately 343 false vouchers (with 340 forged vouchers in the names of other individuals) between September 2001 and July 2002.

In the plea agreement, STAUFFER also agreed to make total restitution (including for all the fraudulent debit card charges and false and forged vouchers between March 2000 and July 2002). At this juncture, total restitution is estimated to be approximately \$25,315.43. STAUFFER agreed that he will fully endeavor to make full restitution by sentencing.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark L. Krotoski, who is prosecuting the case, STAUFFER faces a maximum sentence of not more than ten years; a fine of \$250,000; and a three-year term of supervised release.

The case was investigated by the Sacramento Police Department with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Sacramento Office.

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at:
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/text_version/text_pressindex.htm.

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